

Message Text

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ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OES-07 DLOS-09 EB-08 COME-00

SMI-01 L-03 CEQ-01 EPA-01 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2445

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP SNEV BC

SUBJECT: GOB INVITATIONS TO INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS

REF: A) PALMISANO-MATENGGE LETTER OF MAY 31 B) STATE 140646

C) GABORONE 1745

1. I WAS APPROACHED ON URGENT BASIS JUNE 8 BY ORGANIZERS OF FIFTH WILDLIFE CONFERENCE WHO HAD JUST TODAY RECEIVED LETTER DATED MAY 31 FROM DR. A.W. PALMISANO CONVEYING HIS INABILITY TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. THIS HAS COME AS A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT TO GOB AND TO THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS WHO HAVE URGED US TO CONVEY THEIR URGENT REQUEST THAT USFWS RECONSIDER ITS DECISION NOT TO SEND DR. PALMISANO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE. WE CONVEYED REF B (WHICH HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THEM UPON RECEIPT JUNE 3 DUE TO ABSENCE OF ACTION OFFICER FROM BOTSWANA). ORGANIZERS WERE ADAMANT IN ASKING FOR RECONSIDERATION CITING THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPAL ARGUMENTS:

A) PALMISANO'S REJECTION OF INVITATION (REFS B AND C) ARRIVED AFTER REPEAT AFTER CONFERENCE

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PROGRAM WAS PRINTED AND THEREFORE TOO LATE TO PERMIT GOB TO IDENTIFY AND INVITE KEYNOTE SPEAKER OF STATURE ON SUBJECT OF THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE, NAMELY, WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION;

B) UPON RECEIVING PALMISANO'S LETTER OF APRIL 10 STATING THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE

CONFERENCE (ALBEIT WITH CAVEAT THAT ACCEPTANCE WAS TENTATIVE PENDING HIS DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL), GOB PRINTED UP AND CIRCULATED INVITATIONS STIPULATING PALMISANO AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION AS ITS CHOICE OF CONFERENCE THEME;

C) AS ONE OF THE TWO AFRICAN SIGNATORIES TO THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES, THE GOB RIGHTLY FEELS IT DOES NOT NEED ADDITIONAL INPUTS ON THAT SUBJECT, PARTICULARLY WHEN ITS PRIORITY CONCERN IS TO SET UP FROM SCRATCH A WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, (FYI: THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS HAS AROUSED GOB SUSPICION THAT BY SENDING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS, THE USFWS IS ATTEMPTING TO CHANGE THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE TO REFLECT USG PRIORITIES. END FYI.);

D) CONFERENCE IS PRESTIGIOUS EVENT INVOLVING SOME SIXTY OR SEVENTY DELEGATES, 35 OF THEM OFFICIALS FROM CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICAN COUNTRIES. ORGANIZERS ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT HAVING PALMISANO PRESENT WHOSE REPUTATION IN AREA OF MANAGEMENT IS WORLDWIDE.

2. COMMENT: IN LETTER DATED JUNE 8, (TRANSMITTED REF C) GOB DIRECTOR OF WILDLIFE, NATIONAL PARKS AND TOURISM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATENGE OUTLINES CLEARLY GOB INTEREST IN PALMISANO IN VIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS BUILT AROUND HIS CONTRIBUTION.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PROMPT RECONSIDERATION AND REPLY TO GOB REQUEST TO PERMIT PALMISANO TO KEYNOTE FIFTH WILDLIFE CONFERENCE.
NORLAND

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Message Attributes

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